

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO AID TO ARTISANS

**HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 1998*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves forward on consideration of the 1999 foreign operations budget, I would like to draw to your attention some of the highly successful international development programs of Aid to Artisans.

Aid to Artisans, headquartered in Norwalk, Connecticut, is a non-profit organization that offers practical assistance to artisans worldwide, working in partnerships to foster artistic traditions, cultural vitality, and community well-being. Through training and collaboration in product development, production and marketing, Aid to Artisans provides sustainable economic and social benefits for craftspeople in an environmentally sensitive and culturally respectful manner.

Over three years, Aid to Artisans developed with Armenia partners the Armenia Craft Enterprise Center (ACEC) under a USAID funded humanitarian assistance program. ATA product designers developed a line of children's sweaters, taught knitters how to create high quality products, and presented them to the U.S. market. Several U.S. businesses now have a reliable supplier and have benefited from importing beautiful new sweaters. Over 600 Armenia women, who were living on a \$5 per month pension, have home businesses and are earning \$50 per month. ACEC is now a sustainable for-profit business and has attracted outside capital.

In South America Aid to Artisans has had similar success. USAID's Microenterprise and Small Producer Support Project began investing in Peru's artisan sector in 1994. Aid to Artisans' role has been to train artisans in business skills, develop marketable products, and take the products to the New York International Gift Fair (NYIGF). At this trade show, ATA linked Peruvian businesses with American businesses. One New Hampshire company found a new supplier of hand-painted ceramics. Neiman-Marcus and Sundance catalogs ordered handmade pottery from Chulucanas, a northern Peruvian village where El Nifio flooded their homes and washed some roads away. In four years American businesses have been assisted by USAID's investment, and over 6,000 jobs have been created in Peru.

In Africa Aid to Artisans has worked hard to promote product development. In a small village named Krofofrom, where there is no electricity, artisans have a long tradition of making brass objects for the tribal leaders of their country. Their technique of using lost-wax casting and recycled brass goes back to the past century. As local demand for their work decreased, unemployment rose, and the youth began to leave Krofofrom for the cities. Aid to Artisans, under USAID's Trade and Investment Program, was invited to work with the ar-

tisans. Quickly, new product lines of candleholders, napkin rings, art objects and decorative components for wood products were developed. The products have been introduced into the American market and U.S. importers have added them to their lines. Gumps catalog featured one of the votive candleholders. Today, there is full employment in Krofofrom, and entrepreneurs from the village are travelling on their own to international markets.

The value of organizations like Aid to Artisans can not be emphasized enough. With the help of our federal funding, Aid to Artisans plays an integral role in creating income and ultimately a better quality of life for disadvantaged artisans in developing countries.

## IN HONOR OF RICHARD KOWALCHIK

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Richard Kowalchik, who has dedicated thirty years to government service.

Mr. Kowalchik has been an Ohio resident since 1942 when his parents moved to the Cleveland, Ohio area from Pennsylvania. He was educated in the Cleveland Public School System and earned degrees from both Ohio University and Western Michigan University.

On April 1, 1968, Mr. Kowalchik was hired as an Immigration Inspector with the Department of Justice, United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, in Cleveland Ohio. In 1973, he was promoted to the position of a Deportation Officer, where he served for over four years until he was selected as a Special Agent. In that Investigations Program, Mr. Kowalchik advanced to positions of Supervisory Special Agent, Senior Special Agent and Assistant District Director for Investigations. In 1989, he was promoted to Deputy District Director for the Cleveland District.

Through time and experience, Mr. Kowalchik earned respect and dignity from his coworkers. This respect and dignity earned him the right to serve on the Organized Crime Strike Force, working with the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. On August 31, 1998, Mr. Kowalchik retired as District Director and will be remembered in the workplace as a man of impeccable integrity and fairness.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring Mr. Kowalchik, a man who has benevolently dedicated and unselfishly given thirty years of service to the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service's Cleveland District.

## A TRIBUTE TO ROSE CIOTTA

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 1998*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of our colleagues the extraordinary career of long-time Buffalo News reporter and columnist, Rose Ciotta, who will soon be departing for a new challenge, and I'm sure continued success, in Philadelphia. She will be receiving much-deserved recognition this weekend when the Buffalo Sailing Club honors her at its Last Chance Regatta.

Rose, a graduate of Bishop O'Hern High School and Syracuse University, began work for the News in June, 1977. Over the years she became one of the most highly regarded political and feature writers in Western New York. For the past eleven years, she has also written a weekly boating column that is a "must read" for all of the area's sailboat racers, in fact, for everyone who uses the great water resources of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

Rose Ciotta's contribution to the Buffalo waterfront cannot be overstated. Her columns have showcased the people and the events that make up our waterfront life and have served to make this great resource accessible and immediate to all of the residents of Western New York. Although an ardent sailboat racer herself, Rose's interests were eclectic, spanning two Great Lakes; two countries, the United States and Canada; and the Niagara River and Erie Canal, as well.

Rose Ciotta's special talent was in presenting the facts or history of an event in the words of those taking part. Her stories about boat races, lighthouse restoration, boating clubs, even legislation, always involved the people behind the operation. She brought glory to those who love the waterfront and never expected any recognition for their special contributions. These people are our neighbors and friends and Rose's interest in their accomplishments made the waterfront a place for all of us, in which we can all take pride.

Rose brought the waterfront to the people of Western New York in a way that no developer or policy maker could. She made it real; she made it fun; she made people care. Congratulations and thanks to Rose Ciotta as she leaves us for The Philadelphia Inquirer. She will be sorely missed.

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR METALWORKING SKILLS

**HON. DAVID L. HOBSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 1998*

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of four individuals from my district and to support the work being

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